

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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U. S. OFFICIALS PLAN MEETINGS WITH STATE GAME COMMISSIONERS

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Secretary Wallace has approved a plan to obtain greater participation of State game officials in matters affecting migratory-bird protection.

According to the plan, advanced by Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, and already endorsed by a majority of the State commissioners, representatives of the States will meet annually with Federal wildlife officials to discuss conditions affecting migratory game birds and their pursuit by hunters. The State leaders probably will meet with members of the Biological Survey early in summer, following a similar conference with the Bureau of Fisheries.

Throughout the year and preceding the conferences, the Biological Survey plans to forward to the State officials data collected by Bureau naturalists and information on problems as they arise. Regional meetings at various times will also permit further consultations between the State and Federal wildlife workers.

"With the advice of State officials responsible for wildlife administration, we hope," says Dr. Gabrielson, "to advance the migratory bird program through closer contact with local conditions and also to more accurately equalize the distribution of such hunting privileges as may be allowed. It is our hope that this type of conference will result in even closer cooperation than now exists between Federal and State officials responsible for wildlife administration."

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes the Secretary of Agriculture responsible for regulations governing the hunting of migratory game birds. Regulations adopted by the Secretary are subject to approval by the President.

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